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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): T. ASANO, et al  
Serial No.: 09/889,920  
Filed: July 25, 2001  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING  
Group: 2876  
Examiner: H. Pitts

*Handwritten:* 2876, J. Macleay, 2-24-03

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 29, 2003

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and add the following claims in lieu thereof:

--22. A deficiency inspection method based on a magnetic-particle inspection scheme, comprising the steps of:

picking up an image of a solution containing fluorescent magnetic powder applied on a surface of a specimen using a color video camera;

detecting a deficiency candidate on said surface by using a green (G) signal component of said image acquired by said color video camera; and

displaying said detected deficiency candidate on a screen .